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Gang Leader Slain

Kuala Lumpur, Oct. 27.—The Selangor State police chief, Mr. G. Beverley, personally shot dead the leader of a Chinese secret society during a police raid on the gang's hideout a few miles from Kuala Lumpur early today.

Another member of the gang—the "Malayan Chinese Peoples Self-Defence Secret Society"—was killed and two were captured.

The 28-year-old leader, Lee Loy, former member of the Malayan Peoples Anti-Japanese Army, threw a grenade, which exploded harmlessly just as he was shot down.

The police found uniforms bearing a star and hammer and sickle insignia in the hideout.—Reuter.

RUHR COAL MINES FOR GERMANS

London, Oct. 27.—The Foreign Office announced tonight that the recommendations to hand over the management of the Ruhr coal mines to German hands under the direction of the Anglo-United States Control Group, made at the conference of experts in Washington last month, have been approved by the British and United States Governments.

Earlier it was authoritatively learned that Britain, France and the United States had approved the final communiqué of the Anglo-French-United States coal talks in Berlin, called to settle outstanding questions on the future allocation of Ruhr coal and to discuss further French demands for increased deliveries of German coke to French industry.

The British and the United States Foreign Offices, the announcement said, are anxious that the recommendations dealing with production and management "should be put into effect as soon as an exchange of views now taking place with the French, Dutch and Luxembourg Governments has been concluded."

MEETING OBJECTIONS

It was reliably learned that to meet the objections raised by these countries regarding mines previously owned by their citizens, Britain and the United States had offered to appoint nationals of these countries to manage any mines of whose capital they owned the majority.

(Continued on Page 4)

Sikh Troops Sent To Kashmir To Quell Rebels

New Delhi, Oct. 27.—Troops dispatched by the Government of India were reliably reported today to have made contact with the hordes of Moslem peasantry and Pathans invading the State of Kashmir.

Reports said the troops, sent by air to the Kashmir capital of Srinagar had met the raiders near Baramoola, 30 miles from Srinagar. There were no reports of fighting.

Meanwhile, the Government received correspondence between the Governor General, Lord Mountbatten, and the Maharajah of Kashmir, in which Lord Mountbatten said troops were being dispatched "to help your own forces, to defend your territory and to protect the lives, property and honour of your people".—United Press.

FIRST ARRIVALS

London, Oct. 27.—Eight hundred Sikh soldiers were dispatched by Pandit Nehru's Government of India arrived today by aircraft at Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, which is threatened by hordes of rebellious Moslem tribesmen, according to authoritative reports reaching London.

The Sikh soldiers—known as the "sword arm of India"—will be reinforced daily as circumstances require until peace is restored to enable the people of Kashmir to determine their own future status according to popular vote.

Kashmir's fun-loving Maharajah, Sir Hari Singh, is reported to have made known his intention of acceding to the Indian Union and setting up a popular government, with the pro-Congress Moslem leader, Sheikh Abdullah, as Prime Minister. Abdullah was reported to have arrived in India's capital, New Delhi today with Kashmir's present Prime Minister, Chand Mahajan. It was said they were discussing the deteriorating political and military situation in Kashmir, where a section of the predominantly Moslem population is demanding accession to Pakistan.

ADMIRABLE CHOICE

In London, it was believed—a decision would be taken to suppress the insurrection by military force and afterwards, if a popular government did not meet the situation, proposals would be made to divide Kashmir State between India and Pakistan.

The Sikh soldiers were said in London to be an admirable choice for suppressing the Moslem insurgents because Sikh communities throughout the Indian sub-continent were bitterly disposed towards the Moslem regime banning all Sikhs from Pakistan.

Detachment sent to Srinagar were reported to be under the command of Brigadier H. L. Atal, related to India's Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, whose family originated in Kashmir. The exact strength of the insurgents is not known, but reports from Peshawar indicated that supporting tribesmen from the Northwest Frontier areas might have swelled their numbers to 10,000.

The rebel leader was said to be 30-year-old Anwar, lawyer brother of the present Northwest Frontier Prime Minister, Khan Abdul Qayum, who was appointed last August when Britain transferred power to India and Pakistan. The rebel hordes were said to be directed by a "provisional government"—United Press.

HYDERABAD TENSION

Madras, Oct. 27.—Reports from Hyderabad said today that 50,000 armed Moslems besieged the home of Premier of Chattris and prevented him from leaving for Delhi to sign a pact with the Indian Government.

Reports said troops were called out to rescue the Premier and his delegation from demonstrations organised by the Majlis, a militant Moslem organisation.

Later, Government officials told Majlis leaders that the delegation would not leave today as planned. Tension throughout the city remained high, with troops patrolling downtown streets, where shopkeepers had barred windows in expectation of trouble.—United Press.

Spectacular London Fire

Supply Dump Razed

London, Oct. 28.—The most spectacular London fire since the days of the blitz was brought under control on Monday night at a government supply dump in suburban Barking by 400 firemen.

Flames fed by some of the 170,000 barrels of resin, rubber and oil stored in the four-acre dump leaped more than 100 feet at the height of the daylong blaze and a heavy pall of smoke visible five miles away blackened the entire East London dock areas.

Fanned by a high wind, flames and burning debris from the dump damaged several adjacent factories and the firemen drenched other nearby warehouses packed with highly inflammable stores of wool, textiles, wood and resin.

A government gasoline dump was in the path of the flames before they were checked. Barrels of resin exploded and dock streets ran full of the flaming liquid. The heat was so intense that the firemen wearing oxygen masks were unable to approach within 50 yards of the heart of the fire. None was injured.—Associated Press.

Home Food Stocks

London, Oct. 28.—The Food Minister, Mr. John Strachey said in a written parliamentary reply on Monday night that Britain's food stocks on hand totalled 4,974,000 tons on October 1—200,000 tons more than on September 1.—Associated Press.

Cholera Death Toll

Cairo, Oct. 27.—Another 471 deaths from cholera were officially reported in Egypt today. New cases now total 893.—Reuter.

The Royal Honeymoon

London, Oct. 27.—Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten will divide their honeymoon between the New Forest, Hampshire, and the highlands of Scotland, it was officially announced tonight.

Part of the honeymoon will be spent at Broadlands, near Romsey, home of Lord and Lady Mountbatten, Philip's uncle, and aunt, and part at Birkhall, near Balmoral, Scotland.

There has been no indication of the length of the honeymoon. It was also announced tonight that Princess Elizabeth's wedding gifts will go on display to the public—for a small admission fee—10 days before the Royal Wedding in Westminster Abbey on November 20.

Catalogues of the gifts will be sold and the proceeds will go to a charity nominated by the Princess.—Reuter.

Ramadier's Political Fight Of His Life

ATTEMPT TO SAVE COALITION

Paris, Oct. 27.—Premier Paul Ramadier tomorrow will fight for the life of his new coalition government, buffeted by the Communist-inspired labour claims and a clearcut "get out" demand by General Charles de Gaulle.

Appearing before the National Assembly, summoned 16 days ahead of time to meet national political and economic crisis, the elderly Socialist leader will plead for a new lease of life for the coalition Cabinet which he will assert constitutes France's last barrier against dictatorship from Right or Left.

M. Ramadier's position appeared considerably strengthened tonight by the powerful Socialist gains and new Communist defeats in the run-off municipal elections yesterday and by the loss of Mayoral seats throughout the country including such traditional strongholds as the "Red Belt" of the Paris suburbs.

The Communist evening newspaper, *Le Soir*, in big headlines charged Gen. de Gaulle with "an offensive against the Republic" and "marching toward personal power".

COMMUNISTS' DEFEATS

Communist losses in last Sunday's municipal elections had been enhanced by the run-off elections and were pointed up still further by stinging defeats in votes for the office of Mayor all over the country. In both urban and rural communities, all other Parties had repeatedly ganged up together to prevent the election of Communist Mayors.

Despite this Communist setback, the menacing labour situation appeared to have eased somewhat.

The railroad, civil service and postal unions met throughout the day, while delegations conferred with Government representatives. A spokesman for the railway men said the Government already had accepted 85 per cent of their demands and he indicated that there was no question of striking now.

The civil service and postal situations still had not been settled, but general expectation was that the Government would make sufficient concessions to avert strike.—United Press.

Plane Disaster: 40 Burnt Bodies Found In Mountain

Liopoli, near Athens, Oct. 27.

—Rescue parties returning to this Attica village after a five-hour mountain climb to the wreckage of a Swedish C-54 Skymaster reported that they had found 40 burnt and mutilated bodies scattered over the barren rocky slopes of Mt. Hymettus.

They stated that none of the occupants, officially numbered at 44, was including the British pilot, survived the crash, which occurred last night after the airliner had made attempts to land at the Hassanli airfield, Athens, during a violent storm.

The wing of the Skymaster was found lodged at the top of the mountain ridge, and the remainder of the wreckage was widely scattered for a mile and a half.

The victims included Americans, Britons, French, Swiss, Danes, Norwegians, Turks, Greeks, Italians and Persians, while seven of the crew of eight, which included a hostess, were Swedish.

A Swedish official said that the Skymaster had crashed over the

Bevin Defends British Policy In Germany

London, Oct. 27.—Mr Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, replying to the debate on Germany in the House of Commons today, said that the British Government adhered to its views on the general principles for the government of Germany—to ensure that Germany should never again be allowed to establish a dictatorship or menace the security of the world by adopting an aggressive policy.

The other principles adhered to by the Government were to set up a constitutional machinery in Germany and further the development of sound institutions and to establish economic conditions which would provide an adequate standard of living for the German people.

Mr Bevin continued: "Virtually we have had the task of building a new state. If we had gone into Germany, of a Germany free and unfettered, there are many things we should have avoided and many things which we should have done."

"But at that time that country, which had been ridden with Nazism, was without a civil service or an organisation of government and we had the task of removing those who had been running the political and economic life of Germany under the Hitler regime," Mr Bevin said.

Mr Bevin said: "Refugees poured in—elderly people and children—and it is to the credit of the British Government that we have not turned them back."

BORE THE BRUNT

"We bore the brunt and stood the costs. But it has meant that some of the best miners and the best workers have either been in prisoner of war camps or kept in French mines, in Belgium, Poland or other forms of industry throughout Europe, and we have had virtually to hold up these industries on a high proportion of what is called green or untrained labour."

"That is a massive fact. I am constantly getting letters complaining that I am not taking more refugees who are in Denmark and other places."

"This zone of ours was never self-supporting from the point of view of foodstuffs. It is an industrial zone which was only made supporting by its ability to import from other parts of Germany."

"I could see in Paris in July last year, with the disagreement continuing, nothing but disaster staring the country and our zone in the face, and I decided, and was supported by the Cabinet—because it had to be done in a moment—that if the quarrel about economic unity was to go on, Britain would have to take steps to make our zone self-supporting by hook or by crook."

"Therefore, a few weeks afterwards, when the United States offered fusion, the British Government accepted it."

"I know that the fusion agreement has been criticised. It is not only dealing with the Control Commission in Germany and General Clay. We have to contend with the United States Congress in getting these problems and this agreement accepted."

"In New York last year, I agreed to the 50-50 basis for the United States and British zones."

"I am not responsible for droughts and the failures of the harvests

throughout the world and the fact that calories had fallen from 1,000 grams, and prices were rising. "I could not see how we could procure food for this zone at any price without entering into some agreement with the United States."

"We agreed to that fusion to make it in such a form that other countries could join. It was so devised that if Soviet Russia or France agreed to come in, it would be fitting."

"Again we had a great disappointment over fusion payments. When it was running wild in the United States, it was about \$1.75 a bushel, but before long it rose to \$3, and the old basis of calculation on which we had based the fusion completely went."

"In addition, we were unable to procure sufficient funds to carry through the bargain."

"Then we had further difficulty. We have been criticised for not bringing Germans into the administration of Germany. One of the disappointing results was the handing over to Germans of the collection of grain and its administration too early. I don't criticise them, but the fact was that this problem was handed over before the Germans had secured sufficient confidence in administration work to do it successfully. We had then to turn back and take a good deal of it upon ourselves."

"We tried all through that period to keep the calories up as high as we could."

"It is only in the last few weeks that they had reached 1,550."

REPARATIONS

On the level of German industry, Mr Bevin said: "I look with very great disavour on reparations from current production."

"No current reparations can be done at the present level of industry we have agreed to. If raw material and food have to be imported to provide current reparations, then the United States and ourselves would be in precisely the same position, namely, that of finding money to pay reparations."

"I cannot agree to that policy. It is the one obstacle which has divided ourselves and Russia all the way through. I have taken another line in the name of the British Government that if the economic unity of Germany is re-established and the level of industry is fixed, at whatever level it may be, or even without one, the first charge on German economy ought to be the repayment of money we have paid in to keep them alive during this critical period."

"I think that is a much more justifiable claim than current reparations."

"We said at Moscow that we could not stand disagreement any longer about the level of industry, and if no one else would agree, the Americans and the British must fix something to work upon."—Reuter.

Proposal To Probe British Reds Rejected

London, Oct. 27.—The Labour Government today flatly rejected the Opposition demand for a Commons Committee on un-British activities and outlawing of the Communist Party.

The Lord President of the Council, Mr Herbert Morrison, Government leader in the House, shouted "No" when Sir Watkin Smithers (Cons) asked if the Prime Minister would set up a Committee on the lines of the American Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities.

Sir Watkin pressed Mr Morrison: "May I ask the Prime Minister in view of the rapidly increasing menace of Communist infiltration, if he will come out into the open and introduce a bill to outlaw Communists and sequester their funds and have a show-down before it is too late?"

Laughter swept the House, which includes two Communist Members. Mr Morrison replied: "The answer is still no. It seems to me that political parties can take care of themselves. We are not afraid of them and I do not see why the Member should be. Why he should exclude other subversive interests I do not know."—United Press.

EDITORIAL

Britain Wants Free Trade

ONE of the most important statements yet made in connection with Britain's economic crisis came from Sir Stafford Cripps last week when he announced that the United States had agreed to lower her tariff barriers and admit more British goods to the American market. This welcome revelation came at a time when a general air of despondency prevailed regarding the long drawn-out Geneva negotiations on tariffs and Imperial Preferences. Unexpectedly Sir Stafford Cripps was able to declare, "Trade talks at Geneva are well in sight of successful conclusions," though the Economics Minister had also to admit that "we have certainly gone the limit of what is reasonable in order to achieve agreement with various other parties." However, Sir Stafford expressed the opinion that the general agreement, when its terms are disclosed, will show a fair balance in lowering trade barriers on all sides. If this proves to be the case there will be general satisfaction. Trade preference has never been a fixed principle in Commonwealth affairs, but has always tended to be regarded more as a means to increasing trade than as a step to imperial self-sufficiency. Though the latter concept has its advocates, notably Lord Beaverbrook, and in a more qualified manner, Mr Bevin. As now in force the Imperial Preferences system dates only 15 years back to the Ottawa agreements. It was adopted reluctantly at the time by a Britain disappointed of the wider hopes of raising the volume of trade, but it has never been generally regarded as permanently desirable on the present scale. Again and again Ministers have stated their

willingness to modify the system in return for adequate compensation in the tariffs of others. British prosperity in the second half of the 19th Century was built up on free trade. Only when country after country, including the United States, adopted increasingly protectionist policies were modifications of the system introduced step by step in the Commonwealth. In 1897 Canada gave preference to British imports; New Zealand, South Africa and Australia followed in the early years of this century. In 1919 Britain granted a colonial sugar preference of one-sixth the general import duty. Nevertheless, just before Ottawa, Britain was essentially a free trade country, and 17 years ago charged duty on only 17 per cent of its imports. But in 1932 the trend of world trade made imperative the Ottawa agreement under which Britain agreed to continue the free entry of Empire products and to place new duties on certain imports from foreign countries. The Dominions granted margins of preference for certain United Kingdom goods, while Canada, Australia and New Zealand granted "base tariffs" on the principle that protective duties should not exceed the level that would give British producers full opportunity for a reasonable competition by efficient production. The Ottawa agreements were only partially successful in effect, and in the years just preceding the war efforts were made once more to establish free trade on the basis of a *quid pro quo* reduction of tariffs. The Geneva talks have been nothing but a continuation of the original overtures which were interrupted by the war—a striking example of Britain's passionate belief in free trade as a prerequisite for the world's economic recovery.

**S. C. M. POST
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